

April 2017

It was in Munich, in the heart of Bavaria and in a city rich in history and architectural treasures, that the International Leading Team (ERI) met from March 7th to 11th, 2017 to work together.



Our friends from the German Teams wished a very warm welcome to the ERI and were delighted to show them certain treasures of Baroque art, like this beautiful church of St Michael...



The full ERI Team and their hosts

Life of the Movement

Colloquium on Father Caffarel – Collège des Bernardins - Paris

The preparation for the Colloquium continues within the framework of the progress of the Cause for the Canonisation of Father Caffarel. It will take place next December 8 & 9 and will be organised in **4 half-day sessions**: *H. Caffarel, the Vocation of a Man of God; H. Caffarel, A Founder in the Church; H. Caffarel, A Master of Prayer and Spiritual Counsellor, H. Caffarel, A Prophet for Couples and Marriage*. These 4 topics will be the subject of lectures, memos, round tables and projections of international clips.

On December 8 at 7:30pm, a mass presided over by Monsignor Eric de Moulin-Beaufort, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris, will enable the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of promulgation of the Charter of the Teams of Our Lady in the Church of St Augustin, Paris, Father Caffarel's parish.

On December 10, a pilgrimage to Troussures for the international correspondents of The Friends of Father Caffarel and members of the International College will bring the Colloquium to a close.

Orientations for the next 2 years

2016/17 - Couples: Announce the Joy of Love in the Family (*Amoris Laetitia*)

Orientation: Respond to the Challenges of Marriage and the Family

2017/18 – Couples: Renew the Alliance with the strength of the Spirit

Orientation: Prepare the Way of the Lord (Is 40:3)

Information on Work in Progress or Completed Work

Satellite Teams: Work presented by Clarita & Edgardo Bernal

“Spirituality & Sexuality” Booklets: the entire ERI recognises the fact that they are well thought out, accessible and well adapted to the expectations of numerous Team members. Their translation is underway and they will be distributed at the College.

Pedagogy Team: the following booklets are finished and will be distributed at Florianopolis: Listening to the Word – The Annual Retreat – The Rule of Life.

Reflection & Research Team: the database is finished. Every SR will send the necessary updates on an annual basis to the International Secretariat in Paris, who are in charge of ensuring the updating and maintenance of the database.

An analysis of **Piloting in the world**: the enquiry reveals great diversity in the practices of piloting. A rather general framework document will be put together shortly. The aim is not to give an all-inclusive manual about Piloting for everyone, but rather to specify certain general orientations.

Christian Formation/Training: the writing of 7 of the 8 “domains” has been completed. Their translation is underway, but will take a bit of time, since finding translators remains problematic ...

Spiritual Counsellors & Chaplains

This document, prepared by Amaya & José-Antonio Marcén, took into account the very rich contributions of numerous SR & RR and is the fruit of intense reflection led by the ERI. Its definitive version was adopted and will be translated into the 5 languages, so that it can be distributed to all participants at the July College.

Liaison Couple Guide

The definitive version of the Guide, prepared by Françoise & Rémi Gausse, was approved by the ERI. It will be translated into the 5 languages and will be distributed to all participants at the July College.

Study Topic for Older Teams

Graça & Roberto Rocha presented the outline of this topic that is in the process of being written.

Study Topic for 2017-2018

This topic, written by the Spain SR, was validated by the ERI and was distributed to SR/RR, who can translate it and have it formatted for printing and distribution as of now.

Perspectives

Preparation for the International College 2017 in Florianopolis (Brazil)

Next July 23 to 28 sees the International College of the Responsible Couples of the Super-Regions and Regions attached to the ERI take place in Florianopolis, Brazil.

A meeting with the Brazilian Teams will be organised on July 29.

The motto for the College will be *“Without me, you can do nothing”* (Jn 15: 1-5)

The Agenda: lectures and testimonials (Growing in Conjugal Love, The Christian Experience of Conjugal Sexuality, The Situation of the Church in Brazil, The Protection of Nature, Living in a Climate of War in Syria), as well as discussions on the topics specific to the Teams, Work in Progress and the Preparation for the Fatima Gathering in 2018... as well as celebrations, mixed Team meetings, forums, the General Assembly of the Teams’ Association, a Sit-Down and moments of conviviality...



Preparation for the Fatima Gathering (Portugal), July 16-21, 2018

The choice of speakers is underway. Father Tolentino de Mendonça, vice-rector of the Catholic of Lisbon, a theologian, will be in charge of the daily meditations.

The topics of the talks and lectures are becoming clearer, for example, The Meaning of Christian Liberty, Human Ecology, Forgiveness, Experiencing God’s Merciful Justice, The Teams of Our Lady’s Mission, The Joy of the Encounter...

Solidarity. Each SR and RR has been asked to spread the message of solidarity widely (Do not forget to set up piggy banks in each Team, please...), because this will enable the more fortunate to help those who have the greatest need of financial aid for at least part of their trip.

The number of participants expected (more than 18000, according to the SR/RR’s replies) is substantially higher than the hosting capacity (9000) of the Fatima basilica. Quotas have therefore been fixed for each country and the SR & RR will pass on this information. It will be important to sign up as soon as **registration opens on September 15, 2017** (see the site www.equipes-notre-dame.com –Fatima 2018 tab, where you will be redirected to the new website “Fatima2018” that has been created for the event).

Work in Progress

-A document on the **Couple’s Mission**

-Updating the **Guide to Teams**.

Diary – Upcoming Events

Florianopolis (Brazil), July 2017

ERI Meeting, July 19-23, 2017 / International College, July 23-28, 2017

ERI Meeting in Paris, December 1-7, 2017, before the Colloquium on Father Caffarel, December 8 & 9, 2017

Fátima (Portugal), July 2018:

ERI Meeting: July 7-11, 2018 / International College, July 12-15, 2018

International Gathering, July 16-21, 2018 / International Formation Session, July 21-24, 2018